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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Czechoslovak Premier Antonin Zapotocky was called to a meeting of represen-
   tatives of Cominform countries which is being held near Lodz from 15 March to
   15 April 1952. This accounts for his protracted absence from Prague. The
   main reason for his call to Lodz was to explain the reluctance of the Czech
   working class to collaborate in the rearmament of East Germany.

2. On 10 March 1952 a complete reorganization of the Czechoslovak General Staff
   was begun under Soviet pressure, and the designation of a Soviet general to
   head the staff is expected.

3. On 14 March 1952 further Soviet demands caused the liquidation of the Union
   of Czech Farmers, of which the Czechoslovak Minister of Agriculture, Josef
   Nepomucky, was chairman, and the Union of Slovak Farmers, of which the Slovak
   Plenipotentiary (sic), Marek Culen, was chairman. They were replaced by a
   corporation of collective farms on the Soviet model called Jednotna Zemedelska
   Druzstva (JZD). The Secretary-General of the Union of Czech Farmers, Jiri
   Kotatko, alias Katz, who protested against the step, was arrested as an
   accomplice of Slansky and a deviationist.

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